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Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0046002

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 3 APR 50

SUBJECT Russian Units in Plauen Altenburg and Nohra

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

ACQUIRED

DATE OF 25X1A

SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A

INFO.

REPORT NO.

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1. PLAUEN (K12). 30 January - 1 February 1950

a. Infanterie Kasernen: One rifle battalion of about 600 men, one mortar battalion of 100 men and one AT battalion of 400 men. There was considerable training in progress, most of it theoretical, little practical. Weapons employed were twelve 80 mm mortars, four 37 mm AT guns, and five 150 mm guns. There was also infantry training in an adjacent area. Vehicles ob-

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2. Zadara and Neuendorf Kasernes: Used by artillery troops believed to consist of a howitzer regiment of 600 men, an AT battalion of 400, and a signal company of 100. At Neuendorf Kaserne, troops were practising putting ten 70.2 mm AT guns (42) into position and aiming them. About seventy men were being instructed in telephone use and telephone cable laying. At Zadara Kaserne, men were training with three 122 mm howitzers (38) and three additional 122 mm howitzers were being cleaned. Parked trucks were in the 7 4-33 series. Moving vehicles

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2. ALTENBURG (K27), 2-5 February 1950

a. Infanterie Kaserne: About 1,200 men, majority aged about 19. Source believes this may be an independent AT unit of 8th Guards Army, but gives no reason for the supposition. Intensive instruction was being given with two 100 mm AT, five 76.2 mm AT (42), and three 57 mm AT guns. Workmen alleged that total weapons strength was 100 guns.

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b. Artillerie Kaserne: Also about 1,200 men, most of whom were artillery insignia. A large number of soldiers were wearing a diamond-shaped patch on the left arm above the elbow; background is black, with red piping. Older NCO's and EM had artillery insignia woven into this patch. It may be a kind of duty patch; it was noticed at one training session that a chief gunner and his four assistants wore the patch with woven-in insignia; others not directly on the gun crew showed only the patch.

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Document No.

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Auth.: HR 70-2

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c. Four 152 mm howitzers (37) were drawn by tractors to an area behind the Artillerie Kaserne, where training took place on getting into position and aiming. Five more 152 mm howitzers were seen in sheds.

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3. NOHRA (J46), 7-9 February, 1950

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a. Judging from [REDACTED] the former airport is held by an armored unit (half a regiment or the tank battalion of a mechanized regiment) of 400 men, a mortar battalion of 200 men, 400 riflemen, and an AT battalion of 100 men - total strength, 1,200. Most of them are young; of the officers and older NCOs, about one-third wear armored insignia and two-thirds, artillery insignia. 25X1B

b. On 7 February, vehicles [REDACTED] delivered four 122 mm mortars from the railroad station to the barracks. Four additional mortars also were observed (see below).

c. About 250 men took combat training in penetration and house-to-house fighting. The attack was made by platoons supported by four SFG's and four 122 mm mortars.

d. Three 76.2 mm AT guns were used for target practice in woods behind the barracks. Nine T-34/85 tanks were on the airfield. [REDACTED], there were 25 tanks in hangars, but these were not [REDACTED]

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Comment: No tank divisions have been located in Thuringia although there are numerous mechanized regiments. No rocket launchers have been seen since units on maneuvers departed GHEDEUF during autumn 1949. Driving schools in all garrisons are very active at present.

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